



District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Dyersburg City Schools

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Dyersburg City Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Dyersburg City Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) Families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

Description of how the district will implement required district parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Dyersburg City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

The district will establish a parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. The district will provide opportunities for all parents and families to attend meetings, and offer input into the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the District Plan, and the School Improvement Plans. These policies and plans will then be distributed, discussed, and shared with families, offering a means for them to provide suggestions and ideas to improve this District Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Families are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by submitting written comments to a school. All feedback received will be considered when developing the updated policy for the next school year.

The District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be posted on the district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early in the school year, and made available in the schools' offices.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Dyersburg City Schools will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

Dyersburg City Schools Federal Programs Consolidated Administration assists the principals and school leadership in decisions regarding federal guidelines, family engagement, and give direction for allowable expenditures from their school allocations. Planning meetings are held to review the requirements for the Compacts, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, Title I Meetings, and other functions so administrators are prepared prior to the site based meetings. Support from Federal Programs continues as the schools offer and implement meetings and events involving parents, business leaders and organizations. Annual surveys are given for parents to provide input on needs, changes, and perception toward school climate and culture.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Dyersburg City Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic

minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

The Dyersburg City Schools Federal Programs Department, along with school administrators, will conduct an annual survey to evaluate the content and the effectiveness of the policy. Also, through parent advisory meetings and other family engagement events, necessary modifications will be discussed and implemented.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Dyersburg City Schools will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Dyersburg City Schools allocates at least 1% of the total allocation to the Title I schools for parent and family engagement. The amount allocated from Title I funds will be shared with parents at the district and school level meetings, in Title I Meetings, and at the parent advisory meetings. The results from the annual survey conducted each year will also be used to determine funding expenditures based on individual school needs.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Dyersburg City Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs. Examples of programs with which the district coordinates include district pre-school programs, TCAT and other educational institutions, and community businesses and industries that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Community and business leaders are included in the parent advisory committees. Local organizations provide facilities, food, materials and equipment for parent functions. Events are held in coordination with community stakeholders and many resources are made available as well. Within the district, funds are coordinated between pre-school, IDEA, CTE, Title, ESSER funding, and other available grant sources.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Dyersburg City Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
- The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

Each school in the DCS district will offer a variety of events that increase the parents' knowledge of academic standards and increase their ability to monitor their child's progress, and assist with the academic achievement. These events will provide parents with the material means, and the background to enhance their participation in their children's education. Parent Advisory Councils will be established to provide input and advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. The local community-based organizations and businesses will partner with the schools and offer appropriate support in the above events.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Dyersburg City Schools will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and schools by:

- Providing school staff with professional development that focuses on building and improving relationships with students, and with families and parents.
- Representatives from schools will be members of Teacher Leader Councils, and the Superintendent Advisory Council, which will present input from the Parent Advisory Councils.

ADOPTION

This district parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by opportunities to attend meetings, agendas, survey results, and other appropriate documentation. The school district will distribute this policy to all families of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1st of each school year.